

PROGRESSIVE LEADER ACCUSES CHICAGO BAR ASS'N OF PLAYING MEAN POLITICS

Accusing the Chicago Bar Ass'n of playing into the hands of the Deneen-Republican machine and advocating the abolishment of having its members vote at primaries of candidates for judgeships, Harold L. Ickes, Progressive leader and member of the law firm of Richberg, Ickes & Richberg, gave out an interview this morning which has aroused a great deal of discussion among lawyers in the city.

"As a member of the Chicago Bar Ass'n I trust that organization will discontinue its practice of having its members vote at bar primaries on candidates for judgeships," said Ickes. "In view of the strong partisanship displayed by this organization in the recent and other bar primaries, it is too much to say that, instead of furnishing a guide to the voters by which they may uplift the bench by selecting fit and proper candidates for judgeships, the organization has become an actual obstacle to the expression of an independent and discriminating vote on the judges."

"The growing suspicion that the Chicago Bar Ass'n is largely made up of Republicans, and, with individual variations, will always cast the largest number of votes for a Republican candidate for judge, is borne out by the results of the last bar primary. As an expression of honest, individual opinion of members of the association, the bar primary vote is utterly worthless. The vote does give a line on how many Republicans, Democrats, Progressives and Socialists there are in the bar association, but it tells nothing more. Any organization pretending to give an honest judgment on qualifications of lawyers for judgeships that will prefer a young and comparatively unknown Republican and an active Democratic politician for probate judge to Albert M. Kales can make no pretense at passing fairly and unpartially upon

the qualifications of the candidates for judgeships.

"If any evidence were necessary to make clear the fact that the bar association is merely playing into the hands of the Deneen-Republican machine it would be found that the unwarranted and unauthorized action of the committee having charge of the ballot cast by the bar association before the primaries. In announcing the result of the vote this committee, in spite of a well-established precedent, took upon itself to announce merely the winners at that bar primary, without giving the number of votes cast for each man. It was frankly stated that the reason for doing this was that at the first bar primary the Progressive vote would be larger than the votes cast for the Republican and Democratic candidates.

"I would recommend to the bar association that instead of giving a pretended impartial expression of its membership as to the qualifications of various candidates for judge it take up for early consideration the case of the Republican candidate for Municipal Court judge, namely, Charles N. Goodnow, who received the highest number of votes at the recent bar primary and who, during the years that he has been upon the bench, has allowed his name to be used in a firm name, Ferguson & Goodnow, that is actively engaged in the practice of the law.

"This is the same gentleman who went to Springfield as a member of the legislature after the passage of the notorious Allen law, of whom the Chicago Tribune, in an editorial of Jan. 3, 1899, said: 'If there are any of those representatives elected on anti-Allen law issue who are going to vote to nominate an Allen law man for speaker because Lorimer and Jamieson orders them to, let them do their pledge-breaking in public and